

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A flicker detecting method comprising the steps of:  
calculating a lightness value for each of at least two lines in a frame or a field of a video;

and

comparing the lightness value of at least two of said at least two lines; and ~~The flicker detecting method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:~~ extracting a fluctuation cycle of lightness difference between adjacent lines of pixels from a result of the comparing step.

7. (Original) The flicker detecting method according to claim 6, wherein at the extracting step, the fluctuation cycle in a vertical scanning direction of the frame or the field is extracted.

8. (Original) The flicker detecting method according to claim 6, wherein at the extracting step, the fluctuation cycle is extracted from differences of the lightness values at the comparing step.

9. (Original) The flicker detecting method according to claim 6, wherein the extracting step includes: taking differences from the result of the comparing step, and counting a number of continuations of an identical code from the differences.

10. (Original) The flicker detecting method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of: deciding that a flicker is present from a result of the extracting step.

11. (Original) The flicker detecting method according to claim 10, wherein at the deciding step, deciding that the flicker is present when the fluctuation cycle is within a predetermined frequency range.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently amended) [[The]] A flicker detecting method ~~according to claim 12,~~  
comprising the steps of:

calculating a lightness value for each of at least two lines in a frame or a field of a video;  
comparing the lightness value of at least two of said at least two lines; and  
wherein the frame or the field is divided into a plurality of blocks and, wherein at the  
comparing step, the lightness value of at least two of said at least two lines are compared in each  
of the plurality of blocks, and

further comprising the step of: extracting a fluctuation cycle of lightness difference  
between adjacent lines of pixels in each of the plurality of blocks from a result of the comparing  
step.

14. (Original) The flicker detecting method according to claim 13, further comprising  
the step of: deciding that a flicker is present when a number of blocks in which the fluctuation  
cycle is within a predetermined frequency range is within a predetermined value.

15-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) [[The]] A flicker detecting apparatus according to claim 15,  
further comprising:

calculating means for calculating a lightness value for each of at least two lines in a frame  
or a field of a video;  
comparing means for comparing the lightness value of at least two of said at least two  
lines; and  
extracting means for extracting a fluctuation cycle of lightness difference between  
adjacent lines of pixels from a result of the comparing means.

21. (Original) The flicker detecting apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the extracting means extracts the fluctuation cycle in a vertical scanning direction of the frame or the field.

22. (Original) The flicker detecting apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the extracting means extracts the fluctuation cycle from differences of the lightness values.

23. (Original) The flicker detecting apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the extracting means includes: taking difference means for taking differences from the result of the comparing means, and counting means for counting a number of continuations of an identical code from the differences.

24. (Original) The flicker detecting apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:  
deciding means for deciding that a flicker is present from a result of the extracting means.

25. (Original) The flicker detecting apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the deciding means decides that the flicker is present when the fluctuation cycle is within a predetermined frequency range.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) [[The]] A flicker detecting apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising:

calculating means for calculating a lightness value for each of at least two lines in a frame or a field of a video;

comparing means for comparing the lightness value of at least two of said at least two lines,

wherein the frame or the field is divided into a plurality of blocks and, wherein the comparing means compares the lightness value of at least two of said at least two lines in each of the plurality of blocks; and

extracting means for extracting a fluctuation cycle of lightness difference between adjacent lines of pixels from a result of the comparing means.

28. (Original) The flicker detecting apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising: deciding means for deciding that a flicker is present when a number of blocks in which the fluctuation cycle is within a predetermined frequency range is within a predetermined value.